



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,898	11/30/2001	Shawn P. Delany	21756-013300	4155

51206 7590 05/13/2008
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
8TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELM I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2157

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

05/13/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/998,898	Applicant(s) DELANY ET AL.	
	Examiner Salad Abdullahi	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-18,20-24,26-31 and 33-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 7-18, 20-24, 26-31 and 33-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/22/08 and 4/15/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to amendment

1. The amendment filed on 2/14/2008 has been received and made of record.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5, 7-18, 20-24, 26-31 and 33-39 have been fully considered but are moot in view of new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-18, 20-24, 26-31 and 33-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider et al., U.S. Patent No. 6, 408,336[hereinafter Schneider] in view of Dobbins et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0066033[hereinafter Dobbins] and further in view of Lui et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,839,680[hereinafter Lui]

As per claim 1, Schneider discloses a method for modifying group membership, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to add a first entity to a first group (see fig. 9 and col. 23, lines 27-53);

accessing an indication of a first policy from a plurality of policies (303), (see figs. 3 and 11 and col. 24, lines 32-54); and

adding said first entity to said first group as a static member based on said first policy (see col. 24, lines 32-54).

Schneider is silent regarding: each policy of plurality of policies defining a policy for self-subscribing to or self-unsubscribing from said first group.

Dobbins discloses a user portal system including each policy of plurality of policies defining a policy for subscribing to or unsubscribing from said first group (see fig. 5 and paragraph 0027, 0043 and 0090). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize access control mechanism such as taught by Cain in order to provide coherent view of the different group members.

Schneider and Dobbins are silent regarding: wherein adding said first entity to said first group as a static member comprises updating an attribute of an identity profile for the first group to include the first entity.

Lui discloses an internet user group system for managing user groups, wherein adding said first entity to said first group as a static member comprises updating an attribute of an identity profile for the first group to include the first entity (see col. 36, lines 45 to col. 37, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching Lui such as user group management mechanism into the system of Schneider and Dobbins in order to provide dynamic group profile management, thus enabling creation of affinity-groups, profile sharing and identifying users groups that are related to each other creation of affinity-groups.

Art Unit: 2157

As per claim 3, Schneider discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein: said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group(see col. 7, lines 12-31).

As per claim 4, Schneider discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein: said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy (see col. 9, lines 32-52).

As per claims 5, and 7-10 Schneider discloses a method according to claim 4, wherein: said identity profile for said first group includes a filter attribute, said filter attribute stores a filter that is used with said open with filter policy to determine whether said first entity may be added to said first group (see fig. 3 and col. 9, lines 32-52).

As per As per claims 11-17 Schneider discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein: said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group; said identity profile for said first group includes an attribute that stores an indication of whether to send a message upon adding said first entity to said first group; and said identity profile for said first group includes an attribute that stores said message (see fig. 3 col. 9, lines 32-52 and 12, lines 28-39).

As per claims 18, 20-24, 26-31 and 33-39, the claims include features discussed above with respect to claims 1-17, thus claims 18, 20-24, 26-31 and 33-39, are rejected same rational as claims 1-17.

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E. Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4009. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can

Art Unit: 2157

be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Salad Abdullahi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2157